

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3-10 and 13-17 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 is being amended to include the limitations of claim 2, 11 and 12. Claims 2, 11 and 12 are hereby canceled. Claims 1, 4-7 and 10 are being amended to correct grammatical errors.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that dependent claims 12 and 13 include allowable subject matter. Claims 12 and 13 depend from base claim 1.

As noted above, claim 1 is being amended to include all the limitations of claim 12 and intervening claims 2 and 11. Thus, claim 1 is condition for allowance.

The dependencies of claims 3, 4, 8-10 and 13 are being amended to depend, either directly or indirectly from base claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from independent claim 1, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also

deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Claims 1, 3-10 and 13-17 are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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